

REMARKS

Claim 60 remains in the referenced application. Claim 60 has been amended.

Claim 60 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by Bethuy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,563 - hereinafter referred to as Bethuy) in view of Kato (U.S. Patent No. 4,686,857).

Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claim 60 to recite that a controller delivers a pulse signal to first and second probes in order to diminish the plating of impurities onto the first and second probes from liquid contained in a liquid container. Applicant respectfully contends the combination of Bethuy in view of Kato fails to disclose the output of a pulse signal to first and second probes for the purpose of diminishing the plating of impurities thereon.

Bethuy fails to disclose a controller coupled to first and second probes that outputs a pulse signal received at the first and second probes. The Examiner accordingly combines Bethuy with Kato on the basis Kato discloses a pulse voltage source that applies a pulse voltage to a pair of electrodes. Applicant agrees that Kato applies a pulse voltage to a pair of electrodes. Nevertheless, Kato applies the pulse voltage to create a transient response current flowing between the electrodes. Kato measures the transient response current because the transient response current provides an indication dielectric material performance. Applying a pulse voltage to create a transient response current is not applying a pulse signal for the purpose of diminishing the plating of impurities. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits claim 60 as amended is patentable over Bethuy in view of Kato because that combination does not disclose the application of a pulse signal for the purpose of diminishing the plating of impurities on first and second probes.

Claim 60 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by Bethuy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,563 - hereinafter referred to as Bethuy) in view of Lichti (U.S. Patent No. 4,788,861). Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claim 60 to recite that a controller delivers a pulse signal to first and second probes in order to diminish the plating of impurities onto the first and second probes from liquid contained in a liquid container. Applicant respectfully contends the combination of Bethuy in view of Lichti fails to disclose the output of a pulse signal to first and second probes for the purpose of diminishing the plating of impurities thereon.

Bethuy fails to disclose a controller coupled to first and second probes that outputs a pulse signal received at the first and second probes. The Examiner accordingly combines Bethuy with Lichti on the basis Lichti discloses applying a short DC voltage pulse at electrodes E1, E2, and E3. Applicant agrees that Lichti applies a short DC voltage pulse at electrodes E1, E2, and E3 for the purpose of monitoring ink supply. Nevertheless, Lichti applies the short DC voltage pulse because applying such a short DC voltage pulse voltage simplifies the design of the ink monitoring circuit and further avoids decomposition of the ink and the electrodes E1, E2, and E3 due to electrolysis. Applying a short DC voltage pulse to avoid decomposition of the ink and the electrodes E1, E2, and E3 is in fact the exact opposite from applying a pulse signal for the purpose of diminishing the plating of impurities because decomposition is a process that breaks down electrodes and the plating of impurities is a process that adds material to electrodes. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits claim 60 as amended is patentable over Bethuy in view of Lichti because that combination does not disclose the application of a pulse signal for the purpose of diminishing the plating of impurities on first and second probes.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claim and earnestly solicits early allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTOPHER L. MAKAY
1634 Milam Building
115 East Travis Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 472-3535

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BY: 

Christopher L. Makay
Reg. No. 34,475

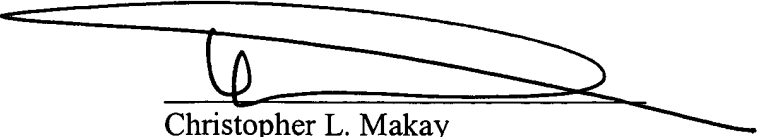
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

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Christopher L. Makay